

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-16 are pending and rejected in the application. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 11 and 14 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 5, 9, 10 and 13 have been cancelled.

On page 12, the Official Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hidekatsu (JP 11-167583) in view of Shimizu (2002-027374). On page 14, the Official Action rejects claims 5-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hidekatsu in view of Shimizu, and further in view of Engebretson (US 5,724,433). It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth below.

On pages 2-11 of the Official Action, the Examiner proposes amendments to the claims that would overcome the rejections. Applicants have therefore adopted most of the Examiner's suggestions with a few exceptions. Specifically, Applicants have adopted the memory including the "database" as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants have also adopted the database "searching section" suggested by the Examiner. However, Applicants have not amended the independent claims to include the "*voice pressure level judging section*." Applicants have elected to maintain this feature in dependent claim 11.

In addition, Applicants have added the feature of dependent claim 5 (with some changes) to independent claims 1-4. Thus, in view of adding the Examiner's suggested amendments, and the features of dependent claim 5, independent claims 1-4 are patentable over the art of record.

Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... a memory coupled to the processor to store a database, wherein the database comprises (i) an identifier ... (ii) an attribute information ...

... a database searching section connected to the database which stores detailed information of attribute information and automatically imparts the detailed information ...

... a log analyzing section for: a) generating log data indicating start and finish times for the control signal, the

start and finish times being determined based on the identified time of detection for the control signal, and b) outputting the log data to the index generating section.

Claim 1 relates to a system wherein a device generates control signals which include identifiers for the recording/reproducing device. Specifically, a database as generated includes an identifier for specifying the control signals as well as attribute information which describes the data recorded by the device. Furthermore, the system includes a section which logs (i.e. records) the start and finish times of each of the control signals. Support for these features can be at least found on pages 16-20 and pages 45-46 of Applicants' specification. Support can also be found in Figs. 6, 8, 13, 24 and 25. No new matter has been added.

In the Abstract, Hidekatsu discloses a system for recognizing teleprompter characters. Specifically, teleprompter characters as well as images may be stored and retrieved at a later time. In similar art, Shimizu discloses a system where metadata relating to an image is detected before editing. Specifically, when the recording frequency of an image does not agree with the data rate (based on the metadata) then a warning signal is output. Furthermore, Engebretson suggests an adaptive gain and filtering circuit for sound reproduction. Specifically, (as shown in Fig. 6) Engebretson performs a logarithmic transform in block 146 (Engebretson's log is a natural logarithm computation and not the recording of data).

Neither Hidekatsu, Shimizu nor Engebretson, suggest the features in Applicants' amended claim 1. Specifically, the art of record does not suggest the "database" and the "database searching section" as suggested in the proposed Examiner Amendment. Furthermore, Engebretson does not suggest a log analyzing section (the features of cancelled claim 5) where the start and finish times of the control signals are logged (i.e. recorded).

Applicants' claim 1 is different than the art of record because the database stores both identifiers and attribute information which identify the recording devices and describe the data recorded/reproduced by the device. Applicants' claim 1 is also different than the art of record because a log analyzing section logs (records) the start and finish times of the control signals based on the times when they are detected ("*... a memory coupled to the processor to store a database, wherein the database comprises (i) an identifier ... (ii) an attribute information ... a database searching section connected to the database which stores detailed information of attribute information and automatically imparts the detailed information ... a log analyzing section for: a) generating log data indicating start and finish times for the control signal, the*").

start and finish times being determined based on the identified time of detection for the control signal, and b) outputting the log data to the index generating section.”).

As shown in at least Applicants’ Figs. 6 and 8, identification information and attribute information are stored in the database. For example, a pin microphone may have an identifier PM-1 and well as attribute information on the performer who is speaking into the microphone (i.e., Performer A). The attribute information may also be the name of the performer (i.e., Taro Yamada). In yet another example, as shown in Fig. 13, the attribute information may also be the title of a video clip associated with a certain VCR at a certain point in time (the attribute of “sports feature picture” may be associated with the identifier VCR-1 of the VCR at Time: 0:00:10). Thus, Applicants’ database includes identifiers of the device as well as attribute information of the device, the data being recorded and reproduced by device, and the users of the device.

Furthermore, as described on pages 45 and 46 of Applicants’ specification, a log analyzing section logs (records) the start time and finish time of various control signals (“log data shown in the figure is produced by logging the control signal of pin microphone for each identifier. The pin microphone recognizes the start time and finish time of a speech”). For example, if an actor speaks into PM-1, the start time and finish time of that person’s speech (i.e., the start and finish time of the control signal) is recorded by the log generating section. For example, as shown in Applicants’ Fig. 24, when the control signal detecting section detects a specific control signal, the start time and finish time of the control signal is sent from log output section 241 to log input section 242, and eventually to index generating section 13. One example of start and stop times for various pin microphones is at least shown in Fig. 25 wherein PM-1 is turned on and off repeatedly (three times) (T1 ON, T2 OFF, T3 ON, T4 OFF, T5 ON and T6 OFF).

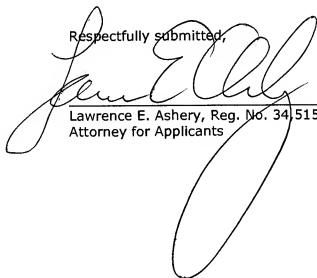
This feature was previously recited in dependent claim 5 and was rejected based on Engebretson. However, as described above, Engebretson’s log generating section is a logarithmic transformation performed for encoding (it does not store start and finish times of control signals based on their detection time.) Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Independent claims 2, 3 and 4 include similar features to claim 1. Thus, independent claims 2, 3 and 4 are also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

Dependent claims 6-8, 11-12 and 14-17 include all of the features of the claims from which they depend. Thus, these claims are also patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of adopting the Examiner's proposed amendments as well as Applicants' further amendments and remarks, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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